

Message Text

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SUBJECT; PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT BERNARD GWERTZMAN FRONT PAGE
BYLINER NEW YORK TIMES TUESDAY DECEMBER 28 HEADED "CARTER
SAYS HE WILL PROBABLY MEET BREZHNEV IN 1977, POSSIBLY
IN U.S."

2. WASHINGTON, DEC. 27--JIMMY CARTER SAID TODAY THAT HE
WOULD PROBABLY MEET WITH LEONID I. BREZHNEV BEFORE NEXT
SEPTEMBER--POSSIBLY IN THIS COUNTRY--TO DISCUSS THE
RESOLUTION OF A NEW AGREEMENT ON LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC
ARMS AND OTHER ISSUES.

3. SPEAKING TO REPORTERS IN ST. SIMONS ISLAND, GA.,
BEFORE CONVENING A MEETING OF HIS DESIGNATED CABINET,
MR. CARTER SAID THAT A MEETING WITH MR. BREZHNEV WAS "A
LIKELY PROSPECT FOR 1977 ALTHOUGH WE HAVEN'T MADE ANY
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PLANS ABOUT IT YET."

4. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN TIME MAGAZINE ON HIS
BEING NAMED "MAN OF THE YEAR" BY THE PUBLICATION,
MR. CARTER SAID HE BELIEVED THAT HE WOULD MEET WITH
THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER "PROBABLY BEFORE

SEPTEMBER."

5. SUGGESTIONS FROM SOVIET DIPLOMATS -- THE PRESIDENT-ELECT, ASKED ABOUT AN ARTICLE IN THE NEW YORK TIMES YESTERDAY SAYING THAT TOP AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS WERE CONCERNED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS TRYING TO SURPASS THE UNITED STATES MILITARILY, REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH SOVIET MILITARY GROWTH WAS SUBSTANTIAL, WE'RE STILL BY FAR STRONGER THAN THEY ARE IN MOST MEANS OF MEASURING MILITARY STRENGTH.

6. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AS WELL AS AIDES TO MR. CARTER HAVE SAID THAT SOVIET DIPLOMATS HAD BEEN SUGGESTING FOR SEVERAL WEEKS THAT AN EARLY MEETING BETWEEN MR. CARTER AND MR. BREZHNEV WOULD BE USEFUL.

7. MR. CARTER SAID IN THE TIME INTERVIEW THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR, ANATOLY F. DOBRYNIN, HAD CONVEYED MESSAGES TO HIM FROM MR. BREZHNEV INDIRECTLY, PRESUMABLY THROUGH CYRUS R. VANCE, THE SECRETARY OF STATE-DESIGNATE. MR. CARTER SAID HE HAD NOT YET MET WITH ANY AMBASSADORS OR FOREIGN OFFICIALS SINCE THE ELECTION.

8. UNDERSCORING ONE OF HIS CONSISTENT POST-ELECTION THEMES, MR. CARTER EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH MR. BREZHNEV'S MESSAGES AND SAID HE WANTED TO CONCLUDE THE DEADLOCKED NEGOTIATIONS ON LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC ARMS BEFORE THE CURRENT FIVE-YEAR TEMPORARY CURB ON LAND-BASED AND SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED MISSILES EXPIRES NEXT OCTOBER.

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9. MR. BREZHNEV HAS PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY CRITICIZED THE FORD ADMINISTRATION FOR NOT HAVING NEGOTIATED ACTIVELY IN THE LAST YEAR--A CHARGE PRIVATELY SUPPORTED BY SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER, WHO BELIEVES THAT MR. FORD WAS OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT OPPOSITION IN THE PENTAGON TO SUCH AN ACCORD.

10. MR. CARTER SAID IN THE TIME INTERVIEW THAT HE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY ACCEPT EVERYTHING ALREADY NEGOTIATED BY THE FORD ADMINISTRATION WITH THE RUSSIANS TO COMPLETE

THE STRATEGIC ARMS ACCORD, BUT HE DECLARED THAT IT WOULD BE THE BASIS FOR AN AGREEMENT AND THAT HE WOULD SEE MR. BREZHNEV IF NECESSARY.

11. "I WOULD GUESS THAT MR. BREZHNEV AND I WOULD MEET DURING THIS COMING YEAR, PROBABLY BEFORE SEPTEMBER,"

MR. CARTER SAID. "MY OWN PREFERENCE WOULD BE IN THIS COUNTRY, BUT THAT WOULD DEPEND ON A MUTUAL DECISION BETWEEN US."

12. NIXON MET BREZHNEV THREE TIMES --- A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SAID THAT MR. BREZHNEV HAD STRESSED HIS INTEREST IN HAVING A YEARLY SOVIET-AMERICAN SUMMIT MEETING EVER SINCE HE AND PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON MET IN 1972 IN THE SOVIET UNION. MR. NIXON AND MR. BREZHNEV MET AGAIN IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1973 AND THEN IN THE SOVIET UNION IN 1974.

13. MR. BREZHNEV AND PRESIDENT FORD CONFERRED IN NOVEMBER 1974 AT VLADIVOSTOK, WHERE THEY AGREED ON THE FRAMEWORK FOR A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS ACCORD UNDER WHICH EACH SIDE WOULD BE LIMITED TO A TOTAL OF 2,400 OFFENSIVE MISSILE-LAUNCHERS AND HEAVY BOMBERS. OF THAT TOTAL, 1,320 MISSILE-LAUNCHERS COULD CARRY MULTIPLE WARHEADS
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THAT COULD BE INDEPENDENTLY TARGETED.

14. MR. FORD MET WITH MR. BREZHNEV AGAIN IN HELSINKI, FINLAND, IN AUGUST 1975 BUT THE INABILITY OF THE TWO SIDES TO COMPLETE THE ARMS NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL AS THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS MEANT THAT THERE WAS NO SUMMIT MEETING THIS YEAR.

15. MR. CARTER, IN THE TIME INTERVIEW, REITERATED HIS DESIRE TO HOLD TO A MINIMUM HIS TRAVELING ABROAD DURING HIS FIRST YEAR IN THE PRESIDENCY.

16. BUT HE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME VISITS BY OTHER FOREIGN LEADERS TO THIS COUNTRY. HE SAID MR. VANCE WAS "DOING A GREAT DEAL OF WORK" ON THE SEQUENCE FOR SUCH VISITS TO WASHINGTON.

17. SPECIFICALLY, ON THE MIDDLE EAST, HE SAID THAT ANY AMERICAN PROPOSAL FOR ADVANCING ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE PROSPECTS SHOULD AWAIT PERSONAL MEETINGS BETWEEN HIM AND PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN OF ISRAEL, PRESIDENT ANWAR EL-SADAT OF EGYPT AND PRESIDENT HAFEZ-AL-ASSAD OF SYRIA, ALL OF WHOM WOULD PRESUMABLY COME HERE INDIVIDUALLY

18. ISRAELI ELECTIONS ARE DUE IN MAY, AND MR. CARTER SAID HE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO HAVE SUCH EXPLORATORY TALKS UNTIL THEN.

19. MR. CARTER'S INTEREST IN HAVING INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS IN THIS COUNTRY WITH THE TOP MIDDLE EASTERN LEADERS

WOULD SEEM TO CONFLICT WITH THE VIEW OF SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER. MR. KISSINGER HAS SAID HE WOULD PREFER THAT SOME HIGH OFFICIAL SUCH AS MR. VANCE GO TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND CONSULT WITH THE LEADERS THERE.

20. VISITS BY PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRESIDENT ASSAD TO
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WASHINGTON WOULD LEAD TO VERY HIGH EXPECTATIONS IN THE ARAB WORLD THAT AMERICAN PRESSURE WOULD BE APPLIED AGAINST ISRAEL AND MIGHT PROVOKE A HARDENED ARAB LINE IF NO ISRAELI CONCESSIONS WERE IMMEDIATELY FORTHCOMING, MR. KISSINGER HAS SAID. BUT MR. VANCE HAS SAID HE WOULD PREFER NOT TO TRAVEL AS FREQUENTLY AS MR. KISSINGER HAS DONE.

21. MR. CARTER ALSO GAVE PRIORITY TO THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY, WHICH HE SAID "OUGHT TO BE RESOLVED QUITE RAPIDLY." ON THE NEGOTIATIONS OVER A SHIFT TO BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA, HE SAID: "I WOULD LIKE TO SEE BRITAIN RETAIN THE LEADERSHIP ROLE THERE."

22. CAUTIOUS VIEW ON KOREA WITHDRAWAL --- AS TO HIS CAMPAIGN STATEMENT THAT HE FAVORED WITHDRAWAL OF THE 42,000 AMERICAN TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SOUTH KOREANS AND JAPANESE, MR. CARTER SAID: "I WANT TO ESTABLISH A FEELING WITHIN SOUTH KOREA AND WITHIN JAPAN THAT WE WON'T DO ANYTHING ABRUPT THAT WILL DISTURB THEM OR UPSET THEIR BELIEF THAT WE ARE STILL GOING TO PLAY A LEGITIMATE ROLE IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC."

23. THERE HAVE BEEN PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN IN JAPAN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH KOREA, WHICH IS SEEN AS RAISING THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ATTACK BY NORTH KOREA AGAINST THE SOUTH AND ENDANGERING JAPAN'S SECURITY.

24. ON RELATIONS WITH THE RUSSIANS, MR. CARTER HAS BEEN GENERALLY CONCILIATORY SINCE BEING ELECTED TO THE PRESIDENCY, AND HE HAS EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR

STATEMENTS MADE BY MR. BREZHNEV ON SEEKING BETTER
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RELATIONS WITH THIS COUNTRY.

25. HE SAID IN THE TIME INTERVIEW, AS HE HAS IN THE PAST, THAT HE WOULD SEEK TO CONCLUDE AN ACCORD ON STRATEGIC WEAPONS ALONG THE LINES OF THE VLADIVOSTOK FORMULA.

26. THE TALKS HAVE BEEN DEADLOCKED BECAUSE THE RUSSIANS WANT TO BAN ANY SEA-LAUNCHED AMERICAN SUBSONIC CRUISE MISSILES WITH RANGES BEYOND 375 MILES AND THE UNITED STATES WANTS NO CURBS ON THEM. AT THE SAME TIME, THE UNITED STATES HAS SOUGHT TO INCLUDE A NEW SOVIET BOMBER, CODE-NAMED THE BACKFIRE IN THE WEST, IN THE PERMITTED 2,400 MISSILE-LAUNCHERS AND HEAVY BOMBERS. THE RUSSIANS HAVE ARGUED THAT IT IS NOT A STRATEGIC BOMBER.

27. MR. CARTER SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED "MESSAGES" FROM MR. BREZHNEV CONVEYED INDIRECTLY THROUGH AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN, AS WELL AS THROUGH W. AVERELL HARRIMAN, WHO VISITED MOSCOW A FEW MONTHS AGO.

28. THE PRESIDENT-ELECT REPEATED THAT, AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THIS STRATEGIC ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS, HE WOULD LIKE THE NEXT STAGE TO INCLUDE CUTS IN THE NUCLEAR FORCES OF EACH SIDE. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH SIGNS THAT MOSCOW MIGHT BE WILLING TO PERMIT ON-SITE INSPECTION TO POLICE A TOTAL BAN ON ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS. (END TEXT)
ROBINSON

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